

Discovery Education Science Middle School – Classroom Trial

Purpose: The purpose of this pilot is to explore and test the classroom tools provided by Discovery Education in their Streaming and Science Middle School products. The results from this pilot will be used to support a proposal to purchase the licensing to an upgrade to DE Science Middle School and to develop a professional development plan for classroom implementation of existing and future subscriptions.

Summary: Members of the Strath Haven Middle and High School science departments have explored multiple aspects of the DE Science for Middle School, but limited to a teacher's sharing of video clips, articles, and other resources. In this pilot, we will create virtual classrooms within the Discovery Education website by adding student information and generating usernames and passwords. This will allow teachers to utilize the online quiz and assessment manager features to assess prior knowledge and identify learning gaps. Students and parents will also be able to access all these services from home. By doing this, we can maximize our use of all that the website has to offer and our current subscriptions.

At the moment, statistics available in the administrative view reveal that most of our teacher stream video clips. This represents a limited portion of Discovery Education functions and capabilities.

Criteria for

Success:

- 1) Ability to meet classroom needs as a resource provider for differentiated instruction in the classroom
- 2) ease of teacher management of student accounts; resources; assignments; and assessments
- 3) ease of student use, comprehension, and access at school and at home
- 4) website functionality
- 5) analysis of student performance reports
- 6) analysis of district-wide use per building

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- Scope:**
- 1) Teacher will create “classrooms” by adding student names, username, and passwords.
 - 2) Teacher will create a PA standards-based pre-assessment using the DE Science Assessment Manager.
 - 3) Students will complete the pre-assessment in the library computer labs or in their classroom with a laptop cart by accessing the Student Center with the username and password provided by their teachers.
 - If student is under the age of 13, they will need a parent’s email address when entering the Discovery Education website. A form letter will be sent to the parent notifying them of their child’s subscription to Discovery Education online educational service. If a student does not have a parent’s email address, a letter will be sent home instead.
 - 4) Students will be able to view their results by click on the final score. Teacher will review what the data means as the unit begins. Recommendations of specific materials to support weak areas available in DE Science.
 - 5) For the purposes of this pilot the Teacher will generate all reports: proficiency graph, student scores, class scores, and averages by question. This information will help the teacher modify unit lessons according identified learning gaps.

Responsibilities

and Roles:

- Xaras Collins-Brown, Technology Integrator Grades 6-12
- Jen Gillespie, SHMS Science Department Chair
- Michael Miller, SHMS Science Teacher
- Valerie Szeliga, SHHS Science Teacher

Considerations:

- 1) Computer and Internet accessibility at school and home
- 2) Availability of computer labs and laptop carts

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Problems:

Trial #1 – Valerie Szeliga (see online results)

- Concerns of security for student accounts and sharing log-ins
- 1 diagram didn't load
- Students not able to change their own passwords
- 2 random resets of online assessments
- 1 misspelled word

Trial #2 – Mike Miller

TBA

Outcome:

Trial #1 – Valerie Szeliga (see online results)

Students

- Liked being able to analyze their results immediately for themselves
- Helps with test-taking skills
- Easy-to-use anywhere with an Internet connection

Teacher

- 20 mins to take two-25 question assessments
- Able to give immediate feedback by class or individual
- Proficiency reports allow for multiple views of data
- Adequate bank of pre-made questions matched to standards
- Recommended resources from DE are great
- Allow for quick adjustment of materials for each student

Trial #2 – Mike Miller

TBA